

PEARSON, J.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff,) CASE NO. 1:20-CR-780
v.)
ANDREY KOVALENKO,) JUDGE BENITA Y. PEARSON
Defendant.) **ORDER**

Pending is Defendant Andrey Kovalenko's Motion to Set Hearing. [ECF No. 27](#).

Defendant's counsel reports that he has been advised by the Government that Defendant's wife has contacted the Government's counsel and "expressed dissatisfaction with counsel's representation of her husband in this matter." [*Id.* at PageID #: 154](#) Defendant's counsel requests a hearing to confront his client about these claims.

Defendant's counsel represents Defendant, not Defendant's spouse. See [*Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 \(1984\)](#) ("Counsel's function is to assist the *defendant*." (emphasis added). Defendant's counsel shall consult directly with Defendant to confirm what "concerns he may have about counsel's representation" ([ECF No. 27 at PageID #: 154](#)) and file a notice on the docket clarifying why the Court's intervention is required no later than seven days from the date of this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

February 9, 2021
Date

/s/ Benita Y. Pearson
Benita Y. Pearson
United States District Judge